

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-20 are pending in the application. Claims 4-6 and 12-14 were previously withdrawn. Claims 18 and 20 are amended. Claims 1, 3 and 9-11 are canceled. No new matter has been added. The Applicants submit that the cited references as discussed below fail to disclose, alone or combined, all of the features of the amended claims, and respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 18 and 20 are objected to because of informalities. The Office Action suggested changing the phrase "the first and second pinned magnetic layers" to "the first and second pinned magnetic sublayers". Claims 18 and 20 have been amended as the Office Action suggests. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 9, and 10 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Nakatani (US 5,390,061) in view of Lin (US 6,127,053). Claims 1, 9 and 10 have been canceled. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

Claims 3 and 11 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Nakatani in view of Lin and in further view of Inomata (US 6,381,171). Claims 3 and 11 have been canceled. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has held claims 7, 8 and 15-20 allowable over the prior art of record. Applicants thank the Examiner for holding the claims allowable.

Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. The examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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